

What is claimed is:

1. A method for operating an actuator (28) having a capacitative element (32), an ohmic resistance (34) being connected in parallel with the capacitative element (32) and the value (R) of the ohmic resistance (34) being sensed at specific points in time, wherein correct functioning of the ohmic resistance (34) is monitored (74), and a fault signal (100, 102) is outputted upon detection of a malfunction.
2. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the value (R) of the ohmic resistance (34) is sensed and is compared with a limit value (G).
3. The method as recited in Claim 2, wherein the value (R) of the ohmic resistance (34) is sensed during a startup phase of a control unit (24) with which the capacitative element is activated (32), and/or during a shutdown phase of the control unit (24) when the latter is being switched off.
4. The method as recited in either of Claims 2 or 3, wherein the capacitative element (32) is used in an injector (22) of an internal combustion engine (10), and the value (R) of the ohmic resistance (34) is sensed during a coasting mode of the internal combustion engine (10).
5. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein correct functioning of the capacitative element (32) is monitored (46, 82).
6. The method as recited in Claim 5,

wherein a first fault signal (100) is outputted when it is determined that the ohmic resistance (34) is working correctly and the capacitative element (32) is not working correctly, or when it is determined that the capacitative element (32) is working correctly and the ohmic resistance (34) is not working correctly.

7. The method as recited in Claim 6, wherein the capacitative element (32) is used in an injector (22) of an internal combustion engine (10); and the first fault signal (100) causes a reduction in the maximum permitted torque of the internal combustion engine (10).
8. The method as recited in one of Claims 5 through 7, wherein a second fault signal (102) is outputted when it is determined that on the one hand the ohmic resistance (34) and on the other hand the capacitative element (32) are not working correctly.
9. The method as recited in Claim 8, wherein the capacitative element (32) is used in an injector (22) of an internal combustion engine (10); and the second fault signal (102) causes the affected cylinder to be shut off, the fuel pressure to be reduced, and/or the internal combustion engine (10) to be shut down.
10. The method as recited in one of Claims 6 through 9, wherein the first and/or the second fault signal (100, 102) result(s) in an input into a fault memory and/or the triggering of an alarm signal.
11. A computer program,

characterized in that it is suitable for carrying out the method according to one of the preceding claims when it is executed on a computer.

12. The computer program as recited in Claim 11, wherein it is stored on a memory, in particular on a flash memory.
13. An open- and/or closed-loop control unit (24) for operating a positioner (28) having a capacitative element (32), wherein it encompasses a memory on which a computer program as defined in either of Claims 11 or 12 is stored.
14. An internal combustion engine (10) having a combustion chamber (12), having at least one injector (22) that encompasses an actuator (28) having a capacitative element (32) and an ohmic resistance (34) connected in parallel with the latter, wherein it encompasses an open- and/or closed-loop control device (24) as defined in Claim 13.